

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS



Photo taken by Mike Howes's guide, "Pops"

Mike Howes with a 15-pound permit
caught while at Turneffe Flats Lodge in Belize

September 2007



Visit our website: <http://www.gbflycasters.org>

SEPTEMBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1.
2. Casting for Recovery Retreat at Oasis Springs Lodge	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8. Teacher & Volunteer Training at Nimbus Hatchery 9:00
9.	10.	11.	12.	13. Monthly Meeting 7:00	14.	15.
					Truckee River Fishout	
16.	17.	18. Fly Tying Jam 6:30 PM	19.	20. Conservation Committee Meeting 6:00 Board Meeting 7:00	21.	22. Lake Heenan Fishout
23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.
					Crowley Lake Fishout	

President's Message

Rick Radoff

I just got back from a Casting for Recovery retreat at Clearwater Lodge, at which there were Frank Stolten, Bill Carnazzo, Nancy Siegler and myself from the Granite Bay Flycasters helping out at this event. Thank you Bill, Frank and Nancy for taking your time to help with such a wonderful program.

The Granite Bay Flycasters will also be helping with another Casting for Recovery retreat on September second at Oasis Springs Resort. There will be eleven of us there to help the Ladies, and I would like to thank in advance Jim Hunter, Denny Welch, Larry Goodell, Mac Hunter, Dennis Baker, Bill Carnazzo, Diana Hale, Scott Eldridge, Nancy Siegler and Jeanne English. This is a wonderful program focused on helping women recovering from breast cancer surgery, and using fly fishing as a tool to help in their recovery. I am happy that our club has volunteered our help for the last several years.

WOW! was Bill Templin fired up at the August meeting, I put Bill on my list along with the energizer bunny. Bill has more conservation issues to talk about than I can fathom, but we are narrowing it down to several hands-on projects that we can get involved with in the coming year—one of them being our Bear River Project of the past.

Jim Coleman stopped in for the Conservation Committee meeting on the 16th, and gave Bill Templin the picture album, chain



saw and misc. tools from the project. He said that the project needs some maintenance, and suggested that we check it out. Thank you, Jim Coleman, and it was great to see you. Also, Bill has some more projects in mind that involve cleaning culverts and fixing fences. Be sure to look for Bill's articles on conservation in *The Leader*.

I am amazed at how many of you put down conservation as one of your interests when filling out the membership application. So, this year please take Heath Wakelee's advice and volunteer at least four hours a year to a conservation project.

As I mentioned in last month's message, we have volunteered for a Boy Scouts of America event at Beale Air Force Base on September 29th. We were contacted by the U.S. Sportsman's Alliance to help with this event, and need some more volunteers. So, please sign up at the September meeting.

We still need some more fly tyers to help with the *Festival of Fly Fishing* in Redding on October 19th and 20th for the Northern California Council of

Continued on page 4

the *Federation of Fly Fishers*. Again, please sign up for this at the September meeting.

I know that this message has been all about volunteering, but we also do a lot of fishing. So, look ahead at that long list of fishouts for the coming year, particularly September and October, and I hope to see you at one of the fishouts.

Tight Loops . . . Rick Radoff

Granite Bay Flycasters Classifieds

Fly Tying Vises For Sale:

1. I have a near-new Dyna-King "Sidewinder" vise for sale. This true rotary vise is the top of the Dyna-King line. You can see it and review its features at http://www.dyna-king.com/flyvise_dtl.asp?itemval=14&pv=0&pid=012. At retail, with pedestal base, it sells for \$429.00. My vise comes with the following add-on items: Magnifier (\$45); trim bag (\$35); clamp base with long shank (\$79); midge jaws (\$40); Black Stream fly tyer's lamp (\$95); tool caddy (\$40). The grand total at retail would be \$723. I am asking \$500.00 for it.

To place a classified ad, you must be a member in good standing of the Granite Bay Flycasters. Classified ads will run for only one issue of *The Leader*, unless the seller requests it to run longer. Submit your listing to: fstolten@comcast.net with subject line: 'GBF: Classified'. Or mail your info to: Frank Stolten, 8290 Country Lake Dr., Orangevale, CA 95662. All ads must arrive by the 15th of the month to be included in the following month's *Leader*.

Outing Committee Report

Your outing committee has set up a full schedule for September and October. There are articles in this issue regarding each of the outings for those months, so I won't belabor the point except to list them for you here:

Pit River Sep. 6-8
Truckee, Little Truckee
Sep. 13-15
Crowley Lake Sep. 28-30
Frenchman Lake Oct. 6
Upper Sac/McCloud
Oct. 11-14

Read the individual articles and sign up at the August meeting for any and all of these outings. There is no limit on attendance so we can take signups via phone and email after the August meeting.

For information on the individual outings, call or send an email to the outing leader or to one of the Outing Committee members—we are listed at the back of the *Leader*.

Finally, please check the web site and the message board often for info on upcoming fishouts, clinics, classes, and other events.

Warmwater Corner

At the September fly tying jam, we will be tying the Tropical Punch. This is a great striper fly to tie this time of the year. The winter run of stripers should start towards the end of October and will continue strong into February.

I must give a warning for those who launch on the northeast side

of the delta. This is also duck hunting time and they have no manners of any kind. They will drive their boats around blind curves at full speed. They are especially bad in the Wimpy's and New Hope landing area so please be careful.

The great news for tubers is that this is also the best time for large stripers at San Luis Reservoir and O'Neill Forebay. Every world record for all tippet sizes for landlocked striped bass came from these two locations. Even more impressive, every record was set by only two men – Al Whitehurst and Len Bearden. I was at O'Neill when Al landed his 54 lb 8 oz from a float tube on 16 lb tippet. One guess about who pulled who all over the lake.

. . .Pete Peterson

Pit River Fishout September 6-8, 2007 Outing Leader: Bill Carnazzo

The Pit river is notorious for its difficult wading. Some of this lore is overblown, but wading can be tricky in places. This is due to two problems: murkiness of the water which prevents seeing the bottom clearly; and deep potholes. But it is a beautiful river, and September is the time for the Pit's big *Isonychia* mayfly hatch.

Isonychia nymphs are among of the fastest-swimming mayflies in the world. They can power their way through fast riffles with ease, and their imitations should be fished with fast twitches. The nymphs are hefty and the trout gorge on them during the hatch period—as in **BIG** trout. The just-

hatched adults are often called Mahogany Duns. Some refer to them as Slate Drakes, but the former name best characterizes the Pit River species because of the insect's coloration. Check the following URL for good info on the river, its hatches, and fishing techniques: <http://flyfisherman.com/southwest/dgpitriver/>.

The outing is scheduled for September 6-8, 2007, which is Thursday through Saturday. This gives members the ability to attend this outing and fish both during the week and on the weekend. I will have a signup sheet at the August meeting, and since there is no limit on the number of members who can sign up, I will take signups over the phone and via email after the August meeting. I will also use an email blast and the message board since notice is a bit short on this one. If you have questions call me at (530) 367-5209, or send me an email message at bcarnazzo@fiscnet.net.



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(916) 601-7853 C

Crowley Lake Fishout

Fun in the Eastern Sierra!

Our Crowley Lake Fishout hosted by Gene Goss and Jim Holmes is scheduled for September 28 – 30. This is a beautiful time in the Eastern Sierra with the quaking aspen in full fall colors, the days warm but not hot and cool nights. The fish are usually stuffing themselves for the winter on midges and other invertebrates along with (in Lake Crowley) perch fry.

If you want to extend the trip (highly recommended!), the trip down to Lake Crowley passes by Bridgeport Lake, West Walker River, and/or Virginia lakes, all destination points on their own. Take an extra day and visit any of those spots! On Sunday, the

30th, we traditionally leave rather early from Lake Crowley and stop at Heenan Lake, the home of some gigantic cutthroat trout...but this is very optional!

Gene and I have been discussing lodging arrangements. We have several choices; we can camp at Convict Lake (a very nice campground but at that time of the year it can be cold), or we can motel camp in Mammoth (only a short distance from the fishing grounds) or we can get a condo or house for all of us. As the time gets closer we can make that decision!

Although all are welcome (of course!) this is probably best suited for those who have a little fishing experience especially in a float tube/pontoon boat as there is sometimes a lot of kicking/casting involved. There is little shore fishing from Lake Crowley but there is Hot Creek, which has 9,000 (literally!) fish/mile.

No guarantees but the fish can be big and very hot and quite plentiful if everything is right. Hope you can join us!

. . .Jim Holmes
jwholmesjr@aol.com

. . .Gene Goss
eugenesusan@aol.com

Casting for Recovery

Retreat at Oasis

Springs Lodge

September 2nd

Frenchman's Lake Fishout and Outing October 6-7

Last year Granite Bay Flycasters did a joint fishout with California Fly Fishers Unlimited at Frenchman's Lake, and this year we invited a few more fly clubs to join us at Frenchman's Lake.

We will be camping out at Frenchman's camp, or you can stay in Reno its only 1 hour away. On Saturday we will BBQ with the other fly clubs, you need to bring your own main course and something for a potluck on Saturday about 5:00p.m.

In 1987 a northern pike was caught out of Frenchman's Lake and the lake was poisoned with rotenone. The lake has been heavily stocked with rainbows, including Eagle Lake trout, along with some browns, and Kamloops trout. There is plenty of food for them to grow, but Frenchman, is not quite as prolific as Davis Lake. By the time we do our fishout at Frenchman's Lake, Lake Davis would be poisoned with rotenone for the second time to stop the spreading of the northern pike to the other waterways downstream from Lake Davis.

Frenchman's Lake is at 5,599 feet above sea level and is smaller than Lake Davis, with 1,580 surface acres. It has upper and lower sections, with a channel connecting them. The upper section, with shallow coves and summer weed beds, is the preferred area for fly fishers. A gravel road goes all around the lake, and there are a

number of side roads that offer fishing access. Do not drive off the roads or park outside of the parking lots; a few years back I paid a \$250 fine for driving 50 feet to the water edge to launch my float tubes.

Two of the better access points for fly fishing anglers are on the north-western shore, Snallygaster Point and Nightcrawler Bay. They are big, shallow areas with weed growth where the fish like to cruise to slurp up bugs EARLY in the morning. With little rain this year the lake level will be down and you will have to carry your fishing stuff a couple of hundred feet to get to the lake edge. There are two boat ramps on Frenchman's Lake, one is at Lunker Point on the north end of the lake; the other one is at Frenchman's campgrounds on the south end of the lake.

A float tube that you can carry, and a 6 weight with intermediate line, and a size 12 sheep creek or a black wiggle tail will put you into the fish. DFG keeps this lake well stocked with planters 13-15 inches, you just have to locate where the pods are working and you will be into all the fish you want to catch. With a 5 fish trout limit, close proximity to Reno, no speed limit, or boating restrictions, and all night fishing for catfish. This lake can turn into a zoo on a warm Sunday afternoon. With all that said, there are some fine holdover fish to be caught. Big holdover fish are smart and have seen it all, last year I took

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the time to fish for holdover fish, the fish count went down to 6 fish a day but the size of the fish went up to 20+ inches. I used a 3 inch black wiggle tail at dark, and a baitfish pattern 2-3 inches around the weed beds, and shallow coves before the sun hits the water. A lot of the trout I caught were taken on cast flies (no trolling).

Your fish leaders are:

Gene Goss
(916-962-7375)
eugenesusan@aol.com
Jim Holmes
(916-967-6709)
jwholmesjr@aol.com

Lake Heenan Fishout

Just outside Markleeville lies a very special fishing spot --- Lake Heenan. Lake Heenan is special because of the type of fish that lives in the eco system --- the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. It is also special that you can only fish this lake from the Friday before Labor Day to the last Sunday in October ---- and only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday! Other special requirements are that you can use only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks, catch and release fishing only, no boats with trailers allowed, only electric motors on watercraft and fishing is allowed from sunrise to sunset. Sounds like a great place to float tube and fly fish! Check the internet for more details on Lake Heenan.

On Saturday September 22, I am leading a fishout to Lake Heenan and ALL GBF members are en-

couraged to join me. If you have not fished Lake Heenan, this is your opportunity to learn from others at a stillwater reservoir that produces many fish in the 18 to 24 inch range. Heenan is Fuller Lake on steroids! No wimpy wussy planters - Forget the 3 wt - Bring a 5/6 wt - and be ready to rumble.

Here is the game plan. The other GBF fishouts in September are multiple day events and far away from Sacramento. This fishout is designed for one day, but if you want, it can be expanded to 2 or 3 days. Lake Heenan is 2.5 hours drive time from Folsom. The lake is located just past Markleeville on Highway 89. It is 4 miles from the junction of Highway 89 and 4, on the road to Monitor Pass. It is easy to miss the dirt road to the right, so set your odometer at the junction and look for a dirt road on the right at 4 miles.

Let's meet at the Lake Heenan parking lot at 8:30 AM --- so that we can be in the water by 9 AM. Lake Heenan fishing is typically stripping woolly buggers - or something similar - on an intermediate line. You may want to have a full sinking line available too. Occasionally, there might be a hatch and an opportunity for dry fly fishing so be prepared for everything. The lake elevation is 7084 feet, so expect a chilly morning followed by a hot afternoon. Once again, be prepared for everything, including a thunder storm.

I am willing to bring food for a sandwich type lunch - deli cold cuts, lettuce, tomatoes, etc. plus

chips and soft drinks. The cost will be \$5 per person. I might camp the night before at Grover Hot Springs State Park (530-694-2248), located near Markleeville. The campsites are excellent and hot showers are available.

I will be at the September GBF meeting and we can discuss final plans. My cell phone number is

916-203-6092 if you have any questions.

...Chuck Honeycutt

New Members

Individual memberships:

Jason Giuliani

Family memberships:

Scott and Debora Kohne



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September Program:

Stalking the Great Gamefish With a Fly Rod by Don Muelrath

“Basically, it’s about sight fly fishing opportunities. We’ll visit many of the world’s great destinations, both the saltwater flats and freshwater. Included will be such varied destinations as Belize, New Zealand, Labrador, Alaska, Christmas Island, Patagonia, Amazon, etc.”

Don Muelrath is a widely published writer, lecturer and outdoor photographer. He has fished and photographed many of the world’s foremost and spectacular fly fishing destinations. He recently returned from the Gaspé area of Quebec where sight fishing in clear-water streams and rivers for trophy Atlantic Salmon is the norm. His outfitting business, “Fly Fishing Adventures,” handles the travel programs for the “Fish First” fly fishing shops in Northern California. His energetic presentation and outstanding photography will make this an interesting evening you won’t want to miss.

When: September 13, 7:00 PM
Where: GBF Clubhouse



ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner date is official!

Mark your calendars for the Granite Bay Flycasters 22nd Annual Dinner on Friday, March 14th, 2008! As our biggest event of the year, you won't want to miss the opportunity to attend (and as usual, demand is apt to exceed available seating... so please plan ahead).

A number of changes will be announced in coming issues of *The Leader* (such as a new dinner venue...and menu, and more entertainment than ever). What won't be changing is the fun, fellowship, and incredible auction and raffle prizes this event is so famous for!

As always, we're looking for a few more folks to help bring this event to life (it's one of our club's most important and rewarding volunteer opportunities). If you want to be a part of making this evening a success, contact dinner chairman Mike Howes at (916) 863-6795



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Phew, did your month go by as fast as mine did? It must be time for a vacation!

Well, by the time you read this we will have heard from Monte Hendricks and Rich Platt (at our August Conservation Committee Meeting) on their issues with the OHV roads through the area known as the "Rubicon Trail". The Draft EIR on the "Rubicon Trail Master Plan" should be out for review soon. I will let you know the website to visit so you can review and reply to it when it is available. Let me know if you are not already receiving our conservation meeting notices, and you want to, so I can add you to my email list.

This past month has included many opportunities for field visits to streams in the Placer County Water Agency's "Middle Fork Project" area. The variety has ranged from the pristine looking Wild Trout stream below Ellicott's Bridge on the Rubicon River to dewatered reaches of it's tributaries in Long Canyon and the burned over reaches of the Middle Fork American River, Duncan Canyon, and the lower Rubicon River above Ralston Powerhouse. If any of these areas are in your areas of interest, you might want to touch bases with me and become more informed about the many studies that are being planned for these areas.

The Sierra Nevada Alliance Annual Convention up at Kings Beach (on the north side of Lake Tahoe) was <http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/conference/> a beautiful and

informative weekend, but I hope we have a session focused on the fisheries and fish habitat restoration in the Sierras in our future meetings. Such sessions have graced the agenda in past years, but somehow slipped through this year. Anyone interested in helping make that happen next year is welcome to contact me and we can try to make it happen. While in the area I touched bases again with Dave Lass, Trout Unlimited's Northern California Director and was provided another fine fly fishing lesson on the Truckee River. I also got to meet many of the local fly fishers from the Truckee River Flyfishers

<http://truckeeriverflyfishers.org/> at an annual gathering held at the beautiful home of Richard Anderson <http://www.calflyfisher.com>. It sounds like they are interested in putting together a joint activity with Granite Bay Flycasters this year... are you interested? Vickie Fenner (fellow GBF member) will be their President in 2008, so she will really be busy running back and forth from Carmichael to Truckee when that happens. Also present with Dave Lass was Sam Davidson sdavidson@tu.org Trout Unlimited's "California Field Coordinator" who is actively involved with protecting roadless areas that are so critically important to water quality & fish and game habitat. Sam hopes to be able to come and talk at one of our meetings soon on these issues.

Enough for now on what has been and on to what is to come... in September we plan to help with

the expansion of the Watershed Education Summit <http://www.watershedsummit.org> that has been very successful for the past 8 years training high school students in environmental monitoring protocols used by the U.S. Forest Service, Fish and Game, and many other professional agencies. Annual 2 to 4 day campouts, held in October at Union Valley Reservoir, provide the opportunity for students to work along side professions and learn what data are needed to track changes (and hopefully improvements) in our Sierra watersheds in El Dorado County. This year we're hoping to find motivated teachers and students who want to have similar experiences in Placer County up near French Meadows Reservoir on Duncan and Chipmunk Creeks.

Other planned conservation activities for this fall include a clean up, culvert maintenance, and meadow restoration activities in the South Fork Long Canyon Creek area near Hell Hole Reservoir, partnering with the Upper American River Foundation <http://arwg.net/uarf.html/> and the new Sac-Sierra Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Keep your eyes and ears open for issues that may impact the quality of our waters and fishery habitats. With your help, I'm sure we can find many ways that we can make meaningful improvements in the quality of our local aquatic environments that will lead to improved fisheries and fishing opportunities!

. . . Bill Templin
wtemplin@surewest.net



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Bill's Stick Caddis - Fall Phase

The Stick Caddis pattern has been very successful over the years. It was born many years ago in its original form on the North Yuba, one of my favorite streams. The current versions of the fly (there are several), now marketed by Spirit River, reflect a long metamorphic history of tweaks and improvements. One of my favorite versions is the one I call the "Fall Phase." Although I use the Stick Caddis in one form or another all year long (even for Winter steelies on certain rivers), the Fall Phase is reserved for the magic months of late September, October, and November when the October Caddis hatch is in full swing. Those who have fished the fly can attest to the fact that it is deadly when fished properly—meaning fished as a "rock roller" as Andy Burk would say, right on the bottom. I combine this fly with an emerger on the rigging—but that's next month's article. For now, let's kick out a few Fall Phase Stick Caddis.



Step 1

Instructions:

1. Smash the hook barb unless you are using a barbless hook. Place the bead on the hook and cover the shank with 15-20 wraps of lead or substitute. Push the wire up against the bead and cover the shank and wire with thread. Apply a coat of Flexament to hold it all together.

2. For the tail, cut a small bunch of dark brown marabou and tie it in just above the back

Continued on next page

MATERIAL LIST

- table
- | | |
| --- | --- |
| Hook: | Daiichi 1260 or similar bent shank 2x Long hook, sizes 6-10 |
- | | |
| --- | --- |
| Bead: | Burnt orange glass bead with silver lining |
- | | |
| --- | --- |
| Thread: | Brown 6/0 |
- | | |
| --- | --- |
| Tail: | Small tuft of dark brown marabou |
- | | |
| --- | --- |
| Body: | Brown dubbing mix—Paxton's Buggy Nymph highlighted with bronze brown Lite Brite |
- | | |
| --- | --- |
| "Sticks:" | Pheasant tail fibers mixed into the body |
- | | |
| --- | --- |
| Collar: | 1st collar: burnt orange Buggy Nymph; 2nd collar: black Buggy Nymph |
- | | |
| --- | --- |
| Legs: | Dark brown or black hen (Optional) |
- | | |
| --- | --- |
| Weight: | 15-20 wraps of .020 lead or substitute |



Steps 2, 3, and 4

end of the barb. With your thumb and forefinger shorten the marabou by pulling on it sharply—don't use scissors to cut it as it results in a blunt, non-lifelike appearance.

3. Form a dubbing loop and insert your dubbing loop tool into the loop. Fill the loop with the dark brown dubbing mix by pulling small bunches of it from a wad held in your hand. This technique is very important to the overall silhouette of the fly.

4. Twist the loop into a "chenille" by spinning the dubbing loop tool. It helps to hold the loop closed at the point where the dubbing inserted into the loop ends and then spin the tool.



Steps 5 and 6

5. Using hackle pliers, grab the "chenille" at its bottom end, cut the thread below the pliers, and wrap the rear 1/3 of the body. Don't cut the "chenille;" rather, keep the hackle pliers attached and move them out of the way.

6. Tie in six pheasant tail fibers, two at a time, spread around the hook. Sweep them back and take a few wraps in front of them. These are the "sticks;" they should be of random lengths when you are done.



Steps 7 and 8

7. Move the thread forward and repeat steps 5 and 6 for the middle 1/3 of the body.

8. Take two wraps of dubbing in front of the last set of sticks and tie off and cut the dubbing loop. Place a few more "sticks" in front of these last wraps.

9. Form a second dubbing loop; place three small bunches of burnt orange dubbing and two small bunches of black dubbing into the loop. Twist the loop as in step 4 and wrap the "chenille" forward to behind the bead. This creates the two collars—first the

Continued on page 16

burnt orange, and then the black. Tie off and trim the loop.



Step 9a



Step 9b

10. Tie in a black or dark brown hen hackle wet fly style and take three wraps behind the bead. Tie off and trim the hackle. Whip finish.

Note: To see color pictures of the various steps outlined above, visit the Granite Bay Flycasters web site.

Tying tips:

1. Don't blunt-cut marabou after it's been tied in as a tail. Instead, use your fingernails to "pop" it off at the proper length. This creates a more lifelike, un-

even appearance that looks much better in the water.

2. When forming a dubbing loop, always close the top of the loop by dropping the bobbin over the loop and then wrapping forward on the shank. This makes it much easier to keep the material inside the loop as you work with it

Fish this beast in pocket water. The reason I call it the "Fall Phase" is because during the emergence the larva changes color from pale yellow to a burnt orange tone. See ya on the creek.



Finished

Monthly Fly Tying Winners for August

Beginners: -

"No Entries"

Non-beginners: -

Bill Lockhart

\$25.00 Gift Certificate:

Mike Powers

\$25 gift certificate from
American Fly Fishing
Company

What About Blanks?

Fly rod blank materials have come a long way in terms of strength and weight in the last 50 years. Prior to the early 1900's, fishing rod blanks were made of green-heart wood or whatever suitable wood stick one could find. Bamboo cane and then split-bamboo were two other materials utilized for rod blank construction. Around 1950, fiberglass materialized into both solid and hollow blanks. In 1974, the Fenwick Company introduced fishing rods made of a revolutionary new material called graphite or carbon fiber. Graphite blank material has been patted, pinched, and tweaked over the past few decades to become the outstanding fly fisherman's dream it has become today. With each new generation of graphite developed, the graphite blank has become much lighter and stronger enabling the fly fisherman to cast and catch fish with greater ease.

While graphite will not solve all angling issues (such as operator error), graphite rods do possess some qualities that make them the best fishing instruments yet created (at least in the humble opinion of the author). Graphite rods are very sensitive to vibration caused by fish (or maybe a rock) striking the fly. They transmit vibration along

the blank from the tip to the angler so you can feel the action. After hooking the fish, the extra sensitive graphite rod magnifies movement of the fish, while the allowing the angler to experience greater joy in the fight between man and fish.

Graphite is much more responsive than wood, split bamboo, or fiberglass. Energy is stored and released more quickly, so a higher degree of control and accuracy is possible. Advantages include:

- Ability to control tighter loops for longer and more accurate casts.
- Sensitivity and responsiveness enabling a quicker hook set (which means more hookups, woohoo!)
- Dampens out more quickly at cast completion, meaning less vibration in line and higher achievable casting distance.
- Allows for more tolerable casting in a significant wind.

When comparing similar weights, graphite is four times stronger than steel and two and a half times stronger than fiberglass. This means that less material is needed to build the graphite blank as opposed to a fiberglass blank for the same strength. Smaller diameter blanks can also be made, thus cutting down air resistance resulting in even more carefree casting.

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Continued from previous page

Graphite blanks do have drawbacks however. For example, graphite blanks are much more difficult to make than fiberglass. They also act as lightening rods during thunderstorms, and are more subject to breakage when hit by a hard object. There is one graphite rod, however, that is not as sensitive to impacts. This rod is called Hexagraph. It is a solid graphite rod which, when looked at in cross-section, is shaped like a hexagon and resembles a split bamboo rod. The casting of this rod is similar to the casting employed while using a split bamboo rod. This rod made its acting debut in the movie "A River Runs Through It", in which it was used to imitate a split bamboo rod. Drawbacks of this rod are it is more expensive (Up to \$1500) and heavier than hollow graphite rods.

Graphite is a wonderful material for a fly rod, however, fiberglass, or split bamboo may still produce that personal experience or feeling that you prefer. The experience of building your

own rod with any material can add a certain amount of pride and enjoyment to each fly fishing expedition.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Larry Lee at 916-962-0616, email: larrylee@L3rods.com.

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Granite Bay Flycasters

Mission: The organization is dedicated to conservation of fish habitat, advancement of the art of Fly Fishing, and good sportsmanship.

Meetings: General club meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Granite Bay Activities Center on the shores of Folsom Lake. For directions, check www.gbflycasters.org, or call Rick Radoff at 916-624-2107.

Doors open between 6:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. for socializing and fly tying demonstrations. The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. The main program gets underway after a short refreshment break and usually involves a guest speaker and slide show, or other presentation. All meetings are open to the public and visitors are encouraged to attend.

Membership: Applications are available on-line at www.gbflycasters.org and at general meetings. Single membership: \$30; Family memberships: \$35; and youth (under 18): \$10. There is also an \$8 name badge charge for all new members. Membership is prorated throughout the year. For membership information, call Bill Carnazzo at 530-367-5209, or visit the website at www.gbflycasters.org.

The Leader: To send articles, photos, ads and other materials, please e-mail to: Frank Stolten at fstolten@comcast.net. Please put *GBF Leader* in the subject line. Deadline for materials is the 15th of each month. Thank you to Alpha Graphics, 916-638-2679 for printing the *Leader* at cost.

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